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GRAFTON MERCHANTS PLAN ANNUAL PICNIC

August 5 is the Date Set for Big Outing of the Business Men.

GRAFTON, July 31.—The Grafton Merchants Association has announced that the annual merchants picnic will be held at Grafton, Pa., on Thursday, August 5. These picnics have been held each fall for the last several years and rank among the leading events of the year. Practically every store and business house of any sort in the city will be closed on that day. Special trains will be operated to the park every half hour and augmented trolley service will also help carry the crowd. An elaborate program of amusements for the day is being planned.

The returns of the West Virginia state dental examination, which have been received, show several local people were successful. They are Dr. Robert H. Dunnington, Dr. Lorraine Painter and Dr. Robert Judge and sister, Dr. Edna Judge Morris, students of the Cincinnati College of Dental Surgery. Dr. Morris was the only lady applicant among sixty-three dentists.

The third and last examination for teachers was held here this week and thirty-five took the examination. The teachers' institute, for Taylor county will be held here for five days following August 30.

The first effort to inflict punishment for a violation of the federal "war" tax law was made here this week when John Handley, of Elkins, was States commissioner, being charged with having refused to pay the federal tax for operation of a moving picture theater at Elkins. He was held under bond for the Martinsburg term of the United States district court.

Six veterans of the Civil war held a reunion Tuesday at the home of Seth L. Stafford, at Newburg, and their story furnishes an odd chain of coincidences. These six men entered in the Union army at the same place, the same time and in the same regiment and served together throughout the war. They were mustered out together and have seen each other infrequently since the close of the war. They are Seth L. Stafford, aged 76, of Newburg; S. A. Johnson, aged 73, of Newburg; S. A. Dill, aged 77, of Newburg; S. A. Stone, aged 78, of Newburg; S. A. Stone, aged 78, of Newburg; S. A. Stone, aged 78, of Newburg.

The assignment of the leases on nearly 200 oil and gas leases on Taylor county property was filed this week by the South Penn Oil Company in favor of the Hope Natural Gas Company for a nominal consideration. A number of new leases have been filed also, which indicate unusual activity in the oil and gas business locally.

The creditors of Charles R. Durbin, recently adjudged bankrupt, met this week to appoint a referee. After a contest between Durbin, Jenkins and a L. J. Wether without getting a decisive vote, the referee, in bankruptcy, O. E. Wyckoff, compromised by appointing N. F. Kendall. A committee was appointed to value the assets of the bankrupt, which are scheduled at over \$200,000, with liabilities of three times that amount.

Considerable work on the city streets is contemplated this fall. This will include the regrading and repaving of St. Mary street, more new pavements on Latrobe street, and cutting back the property line at the corner of Main and Latrobe streets. Several thousand dollars will be ex-

"HELL'S HUNDRED" BIG BATTLEGROUND

Miles That Are Full of Danger, Opium and Chinese Smugglers.

LOS ANGELES, July 31.—"Hell's Hundred" is what old timers call the 100 miles of Mexican border between Tia Juana and Mexican, the "two toughest towns" on the American continent.

And on that 100 miles stretch—America's last frontier—a handful of United States inspectors is today fighting a guerrilla warfare with scores of white, black and tan smugglers whose sole object in life is to beat Uncle Sam's customs laws. They have been fighting the war for many months. The end is not in sight.

Daily skirmishes. Far away from telegraphs and telephones there are almost daily skirmishes. They never break into the newspapers. Gangs of frightened sheeplike Chinese are rounded up sometimes while the agents attempting to sneak them over the border flee with bullets droning above them. Desperadoes with automobile cargoes of opium match their motors against the ponies of the inspectors and again the bullets drone. Battles have been fought in the desert mountains and in the alkaline beds of dried up oceans. Occasionally someone is killed or a batch of prisoners captured. But the censorship of lonely wastes devoid of telegraph or telephone proves a stronger bar to news than the censorship of Europe.

The war is directed from Los Angeles. "Jack" Elliott, collector of the port of Los Angeles, is commander-in-chief. He sits in his office and gets reports. He issues secret orders. Sometimes bronzed youths with bandaged hands or heads confer with him seriously. Once every few weeks he sheds his business suit, dons khaki and a sombrero and disappears, to return awhile later, unburned, saddle sore and determined.

Boys are alert. "The boys are doing well," he says. It means volumes. It means that here and there along the empty barren stretches at "Hell's Hundred" young Americans are slowly trotting their horses, or making their blanket beds with the sky for a roof and the moon for a lamp, shivering by night and sweating by day, always alert for the purr of a distant motor, the flash of light on the horizon that means smugglers. Chinks—and a fight.

Most of the smugglers have their headquarters at Tia Juana, fourteen miles east. Both towns are utterly beyond all law. They denizens always face toward California for to cross the line with contraband means profit.

And between these two outposts of Gehenna and civilized southern California, with its prosaic jitney buses and its little green bungalows, there is nothing but this thin line of bronzed horsemen who watch and fight, take bullets and give them. Twenty-four hours a day, unknown and unappreciated.

Five hundred excursionists from Gassaway and intermediate points took advantage of the Coal and Coke excursion to visit the city Sunday. The band concert in the city park and other amusements made the day a pleasant one for the visitors.

The Rev. Frederick H. Barron, D. D., and little son, Fred, have gone to Montreal, N. C., to attend a conference of ministers of the Southern Presbyterian church. The conference will deal largely with educational matters in connection with the church.

Mrs. A. M. Fredlock gave a delightful birthday party to about forty little children in honor of the fifth birthday of her son, Armistead Montgomey.

Miss Arma Bing has returned from Fairmont where she attended the summer school of the normal school. She has accepted a position as teacher of German and English in the Barracksville high school.

F. B. Mayer, who has been a teacher in the summer school at Davis and Elkins college, has gone to his home at Terra Alta, for a couple of weeks before going to Arkansas where he teaches in a college this winter.

The Elks annual picnic was held Wednesday in the Hornbeck grove at Dalley, the trip being made in a special train. About 300 were in attendance from this city.

County Superintendent of Schools Troy B. Wilmoth, and sisters, Misses Grace and Anna, Nell and Gnomes McDaniels started Friday on a motor trip to the exposition.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henry have taken their daughter, Miss Eva, to a hospital in Baltimore to receive treatment.

Col. John T. McGraw, of Grafton, was a business visitor in the city the latter part of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Spears and daughter, Marjorie, have gone to Niagara Falls in their car.

Miss Mabel Griffith, of Morgantown, is in the city as the guest of her cousin, Mrs. Marvin Taylor.

W. D. Baldwin was operated on for appendicitis Monday night in a local hospital and is doing nicely.

Misses Hazel and Orpha Cathers, of Grafton, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Shaver.

Mrs. F. S. Johnson and daughter, Miss Mildred, have gone to Minnehaha Springs to spend a few days.

Miss Nell White, of Clarksburg, is visiting relatives in Elkins.

WOMEN DIG GRAVES.

GENEVA, July 31.—According to the Austrian newspapers, women are now employed in Vienna as undertakers and grave diggers, and generally for all work connected with funerals.

ELKINS MOVIE MAN FILMS A BIG GATHERING

Two Thousand Feet of Pictures Taken for Somerset Board of Trade.

ELKINS, July 31.—R. H. Talbot, manager of the Talbot Film Manufacturing Company, was in Somerset, Pa., Tuesday, making 2,000 feet of moving pictures showing all the special events which took place on Farmers' day of chautauqua week, at the request of the board of trade of Somerset.

The West Virginia Rural Letter Carriers Association held its annual session in this city Monday. Terra Alta was selected as the meeting place next year and the following officer were elected: H. E. Young, of Reservoir, president; J. H. Hartley, of Elkins, vice president; Arthur Forrest, of New Cumberland, secretary; treasurer, C. C. Sellers, of Glover Gap; A. V. Enlow, of Kerns; delegates to national conventional convention at Detroit, Arthur Forrest, of New Cumberland and A. V. Enlow, of Kerns. In the afternoon they motored to Dailey where a picnic was held.

Miss Madge Lee Duncan has been graduated from the training school of the Davis Memorial hospital, completing the regular full three years. Miss Duncan comes from Lewis county and will visit her home people for a short time before taking up her professional work.

Lieutenant Joseph J. Teter, of Belington, is in the city as the guest of George H. Coffman. Lieutenant Teter was graduated this spring from West Point military academy and is at home on leave of absence before reporting for duty at Fortress Monroe, where he will be stationed.

Mrs. Lena Yost, of Morgantown, state president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, was in the city Tuesday, and organized the Loyal Temperance Legion among the children at the Odd Fellows home.

Jesse Robinson and his cousin, Miss Hazel Bell, are ill at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Robinson, with typhoid pneumonia. After being in a very serious condition for a few hours they improved somewhat. Eating canned corn is supposed to have caused their illness.

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EXPOSITION HAS AN EFFICIENCY EXPERT

Employee of San Diego Fair Can Tell Exact Length of Lead Pencil's Life.

SAN DIEGO, July 31.—The San Diego exposition has an efficiency expert. He's one of those exacting and highly technical individuals who can tell you the life of a lead pencil and declares if a stenographer could take dictation with one hand and transcribe it with the other at the same time the clerical cost could be reduced so much "per capita per second."

Now this fellow is off on another track and he has just concluded one of his "scientific" investigations. He has figured out what the exposition loses every time a parade passes through the ground. This efficiency expert has just informed the exposition directors that the big Elks parade cost \$7.93 on one point alone. He also figured out that the parade of the American Beauty girls cost \$9.47.

"You see," says the efficiency man, "every time a parade passes the administration building on the grounds, the stenographers hear their work to see it. They were all out for the Elks. Stenographers get so much per day. Their wages are so much per hour. The Elks parade was so many minutes in passing. A dozen stenographers watched it and the total cost—its easy to figure—was just \$7.93. As for the mon. Why they watched the American Beauty parade and used up just \$9.47 of the exposition's time in doing so. This must stop."

So thoroughly has this expert searched into the realms of efficiency that he now proposes that the gardeners hold a hose in each and and that the pigeons in the Plaza de Panama be trained to pick up waste paper so that the street cleaning force can be reduced. The efficiency man is popular with the financiers of the exposition but should he run for office the votes he would get from employees would be conspicuous for their absence.

TOURIST LINE

Of Railroad Built in Switzerland—land at Cost of \$100,000 a Mile.

GENEVA, July 31.—The latest and finest of the little Swiss mountain railways has just been opened between Leuk and Leukerbad. It will probably be the last to be constructed for many years to come. The new line began in 1912, is six and a half miles long, and operated by electricity. It is mainly a tourist line, leading from Leuk on the main Simplon line to the beautiful little watering place and winter resort of Leukerbad. It also affords access to the interesting bridle path leading to the summit of Gemmi peak, 7,650 feet high.

The construction of the line cost over \$100,000 a mile.

STEEL HELMETS ARE USEFUL PROTECTION

They Save Large Number of Men from Being Killed or Wounded.

DUNKIRK, France, July 31.—Steel helmets have now been in use sufficiently long in the French army to prove that they are a useful protection to infantrymen. They have saved a large number of men in the front trenches from being either wounded or killed by shrapnel fire and have effectively warded off the side strike of rifle bullets.

The soldiers are enthusiastic about their use, and the delay anticipated in turning them out is partly overcome by the fact that they are only used in the firing line and supporting trenches.

It is officially stated that the thin chrome steel helmets cost less than seven cents each.

PENCIL MARKS ARE WEIGHED

New Equipment at Bureau of Weights and Measures Very Accurate.

CHARLESTON, July 31.—A consignment of the standard equipment for the state bureau of weights and measures to be maintained in connection with the department of labor under the direction of Commissioner J. H. Nightingale has arrived in the city from Washington and is being put up in the room arranged for it at the south end of the corridor on the second floor of the state house.

This equipment, before being sent to Charleston from the New York factory, was put through the test of the government standards at Washington to be sure of its absolute conformity to established weights and measures. All the apparatus to be used by the inspector in going over the state will be tested at frequent intervals by the state standards.

A duplication of the equipment placed here has been sent to the university at Morgantown and will be used for the same purpose for the northern part of the state. The test for weights is said to be so correct and so minutely exact that the weight of a penny is found to be one hundredth of a penny mark on a piece of paper. "Of course, we don't expect to spend any time weighing pencil marks," Commissioner Nightingale hastened to assure his auditors when he explained the possibilities of the machine. "But we are going to see that every pair of scales in West Virginia is approximately correct, and we will be just as careful in the inspection of measures of other kinds."

IRON WORKS

In a German City Now Employ More than 6,000 Women.

DORTMUND, Germany, July 31.—Women have so far supplanted men in some of the large industries of Dortmund that there are now 7,000 doing the ordinary work of their husbands or brothers while fully 1,000 more are seeking positions.

Out of this total, 6,000 are in the iron works and have to do work customarily considered too heavy for women. About one quarter of the women are those whose husbands are at war; one sixth are widows, and the balance are unmarried. The number who have to be dismissed because of inability to do the work is comparatively small.

FORTY-FOUR CHILDREN IS RECORD OF NEGRO

Now Past 124 Years and Has Been Married Three Times.

ROME, Ga., July 31.—Jerry Neal, colored, of Cave Springs, celebrated his one hundred and twenty-fourth birthday anniversary a few days ago. He is, so far as is known, the oldest person in Georgia, if not in the United States. He has papers which establish his age beyond question, and the oldest inhabitants of Floyd county remember when they were in their kilns. Jerry, the father of forty-four children, distinctly remembers the war of 1812 and many of the Indians wars. He is now a widower, but has been married three times. He is well and hearty, but uses a cane when walking.

ALASKAN TIMBER WILL BE USED

In Construction of Government Railroad From Seward to the Pacific.

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The Alaskan engineering commission, which is to build the government railroad from Seward on the Pacific 471 miles to Fairbanks in the interior, has received a permit from the forest service to cut eighty-five million feet of timber in the Chugach national forest for use in constructing the new line. The permit was issued by the district forester at Portland, Ore., who has direct supervision of the Alaskan forests, and is in conformity with the act of March 4, last, which authorized the secretary of agriculture to permit the Alaskan engineering commission and the navy department to take from the national forests free of charge earth, stone, and timber for use in government works. The timber will be cut in designated areas along the right-of-way of the proposed railroad, which runs through the Chugach national forest for several miles. Experiments and tests of Alaskan spruce and hemlock are being made at the forest service laboratory at Seattle, Washington, and so far have substantiated the opinion of foresters that Alaskan timber is sufficiently strong for practically all structural purposes. While these tests are going on forest service employees in Alaska are marking the timber to be cut along the proposed railroad, the cutting to be done so that only mature trees are taken, the young trees being left to grow and the land to be returned to the forest improved.

This cut of eighty-five million feet will be the largest amount of timber ever felled on the Alaskan forests in one operation, and at the average rate per thousand board feet obtained for timber sold from Chugach forest, it will cost about \$145,000 on the stump. It will be nearly twice as much as the total quantity of national forest timber now cut and used annually for local purposes throughout Alaska, but only a little more than one-tenth of the estimated annual growth of the Alaskan forests. The two national forests of Alaska contain about seventy-eight billion feet of merchantable timber and it is estimated by the forest service that more than 800 million feet could be cut every year forever without lessening the forests' productivity.

Ragtime Made a Bandit Of This Law Student

time made me a bandit. It lured me away from my law studies. The penny dance gripped me. After that there were the girls and the gang and I became a bandit.

So said Roy McIntee, boy bandit, who studied law by day and robbed by night, in his cell at the city hall. "I was studying law when a friend came along one day and took me to a penny dance," said McIntee. "I met girls. To make a hit I had to buy. To get money to buy, I turned bandit. Then I tried to reform and went back to my books, but the ragtime thumped in my brain and I went over the same course again."

PHEASANTS HATCHING.

CYNTHIA, Ky., July 31.—The English ring necked pheasants hatched in this county several months ago by the fish and game club have been heard from. Several times hens have been seen with flocks of little ones and the birds seem to be doing well. It well protected for several years, Kentucky will have a game bird worth while. Partridges are also said to be thriving in various parts of the county.